

**Blumberg & Wolk, LLC**  
158 Delaware Street  
P.O. Box 68  
Woodbury, NJ 08096  
(856) 848-7472

*Counsel for Defendants Premier Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Associates of Southern New Jersey, LLC, trading as Premier Orthopaedic Associates, Premier Orthopaedic Associates Surgical Center, LLC, Kimberly Yvette Smith, M.D., a/k/a Kimberly Yvette Smith-Martin, M.D., Thomas Dwyer, M.D., Rhaul Shah, M.D., John Catalano, M.D., Richard C. DiVerniero, M.D., and Richard Strauss, M.D.*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

IN RE: NEW ENGLAND COMPOUNDING  
PHARMACY, INC. PRODUCTS LIABILITY  
LITIGATION

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:

ALL CASES

MDL No. 2419  
Docket No. 1:13-md-2419 (RWZ)

**NOTICE OF FILING OF NOTICE OF DEPOSITION**

Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(6), Defendants Premier Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Associates of Southern New Jersey, LLC, trading as Premier Orthopaedic Associates, Premier Orthopaedic Associates Surgical Center, LLC, Kimberly Yvette Smith, M.D., a/k/a Kimberly Yvette Smith-Martin, M.D., Thomas Dwyer, M.D., Rhaul Shah, M.D., John Catalano, M.D., Richard C. DiVerniero, M.D., and Richard Strauss, M.D. (Hereinafter "The Premier Defendants" or "Premier") give notice to the Court and to all parties of the filing of the Notice of Deposition for the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Exhibit 1.

Respectfully submitted,

**Blumberg & Wolk, LLC**  
158 Delaware Street  
P.O. Box 68  
Woodbury New Jersey 08096  
(856) 848-7472  
cwolk@blumberglawoffices.com

/s/ Christopher M. Wolk  
Christopher M. Wolk, Esq.

Attorneys for Premier Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Associates of Southern New Jersey, LLC, trading as Premier Orthopaedic Associates, Premier Orthopaedic Associates Surgical Center, LLC, Kimberly Yvette Smith, M.D., a/k/a Kimberly Yvette Smith-Martin, M.D., Thomas Dwyer, M.D., Richard C. DiVerniero, M.D., and Richard Strauss, M.D.

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that in submitting this *NOTICE OF FILING*, I caused a copy of the above to be filed electronically via the Court's electronic filing system. Those attorneys who are registered with the Court's electronic filing system may access these filings through the Court's System, and notice of these filings will be sent to these parties by operation of the Court's electronic filing system.

Dated: February 16, 2016

/s/ Christopher M. Wolk  
Christopher M. Wolk, Esq.

# EXHIBIT 1

NOTICE OF DEPOSITION FOR THE  
NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PHARMACY

**Blumberg & Wolk, LLC**  
158 Delaware Street  
P.O. Box 68  
Woodbury, NJ 08096  
(856) 848-7472

*Counsel for Defendants Premier Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Associates of Southern New Jersey, LLC, trading as Premier Orthopaedic Associates, Premier Orthopaedic Associates Surgical Center, LLC, Kimberly Yvette Smith, M.D., a/k/a Kimberly Yvette Smith-Martin, M.D., Thomas Dwyer, M.D., Rhaul Shah, M.D., John Catalano, M.D., Richard C. DiVerniero, M.D., and Richard Strauss, M.D.*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

IN RE: NEW ENGLAND COMPOUNDING  
PHARMACY, INC. PRODUCTS LIABILITY  
LITIGATION

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:  
ALL CASES

MDL No. 2419  
Docket No. 1:13-md-2419 (RWZ)

**NOTICE OF 30(B)(6) DEPOSITION**

Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(6), Defendants Premier Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Associates of Southern New Jersey, LLC, trading as Premier Orthopaedic Associates, Premier Orthopaedic Associates Surgical Center, LLC, Kimberly Yvette Smith, M.D., a/k/a Kimberly Yvette Smith-Martin, M.D., Thomas Dwyer, M.D., Rhaul Shah, M.D., John Catalano, M.D., Richard C. DiVerniero, M.D., and Richard Strauss, M.D. (Hereinafter "The Premier Defendants" or "Premier"), come now and give notice that the deposition of the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy will be taken by oral examination on March 11, 2016 at 10:00 AM.

Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(6), the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy shall designate a witness to testify on the topics included with this notice, and any cross questions, redirect questions, or recross questions.

The deponent will testify before a court reporter from Discovery Litigation Services at the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy offices at 124 Halsey St., Newark, NJ 07102. The deposition will be recorded by video and stenographical means.

Respectfully submitted,

**Blumberg & Wolk, LLC**  
158 Delaware Street  
P.O. Box 68  
Woodbury New Jersey 08096  
(856) 848-7472  
[cwolk@blumberglawoffices.com](mailto:cwolk@blumberglawoffices.com)

/s/ Christopher M. Wolk  
Christopher M. Wolk, Esq.

Attorneys for Premier Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Associates of Southern New Jersey, LLC, trading as Premier Orthopaedic Associates, Premier Orthopaedic Associates Surgical Center, LLC, Kimberly Yvette Smith, M.D., a/k/a Kimberly Yvette Smith-Martin, M.D., Thomas Dwyer, M.D., Richard C. DiVerniero, M.D., and Richard Strauss, M.D.

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that in submitting this *NOTICE OF DEPOSITION*, I caused a copy of the above to be filed electronically via the Court's electronic filing system. Those attorneys who are registered with the Court's electronic filing system may access these filings through the Court's System, and notice of these filings will be sent to these parties by operation of the Court's electronic filing system. A copy of the subpoena will also be served by U.S. Mail to the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy, P.O. Box 45013, Newark, NJ 07101; and via Hand Delivery to the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy, 124 Halsey St., Newark NJ 07102.

Dated: February 16, 2016

/s/ Christopher M. Wolk  
Christopher M. Wolk, Esq.

JAY J. BLUMBERG \*  
jjblumberg@blumberglawoffices.com  
CERTIFIED CIVIL TRIAL ATTORNEY

CHRISTOPHER M. WOLK \*  
cwolk@blumberglawoffices.com

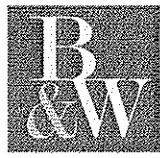
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+MEMBER OF N.Y. and NJ BAR



Blumberg & Wolk LLC  
Trial Lawyers

February 16, 2016

**Sent Via U.S. Mail and Hand Delivery**

Attn: Anthony Rubinaccio, Executive Director  
New Jersey Board of Pharmacy  
P.O. Box 45013  
Newark, NJ 07101

**Re: NECC MDL – Case No. 1:13-md-2419 (D. Mass.)**

Dear Mr. Rubinaccio:

In follow-up to our previous communication of December, 2015, we are writing to notify you of the rescheduled date for the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy's deposition in the above litigation. The deposition will take place on **March 11, 2016 at 10:00 AM EST** at the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy offices located at 124 Halsey St., Newark, NJ 07102.

Enclosed you will find:

1. A subpoena for deposition
2. Attachment A to the subpoena, listing the topics of the deposition
3. A \$40 check for the witness fee for appearing at the deposition<sup>1</sup>
4. The deposition protocol for this litigation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact attorney Christopher Wolk at Blumberg & Wolk, LLC, or have your attorney contact him. My contact information is as follows:

<sup>1</sup> The check was provided with the hand-delivered letter dated December 15, 2015.

February 16, 2016  
Page 2

Christopher Wolk  
Blumberg & Wolk, LLC  
158 Delaware St.  
P.O. Box 68  
Woodbury, NJ 08096  
(856) 848-7472  
[cwolk@blumberglawoffices.com](mailto:cwolk@blumberglawoffices.com)

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

Christopher Wolk

Enclosures

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
for the  
**District of Massachusetts**

In Re: New England Compounding Pharmacy, Inc.

*Plaintiff*

v.

*Defendant*

)  
)  
)  
)  
)

Civil Action No. 1:13-md-02419-RWZ

**SUBPOENA TO TESTIFY AT A DEPOSITION IN A CIVIL ACTION**

To: The New Jersey Board of Pharmacy

*(Name of person to whom this subpoena is directed)*

*Testimony:* **YOU ARE COMMANDED** to appear at the time, date, and place set forth below to testify at a deposition to be taken in this civil action. If you are an organization, you must designate one or more officers, directors, or managing agents, or designate other persons who consent to testify on your behalf about the following matters, or those set forth in an attachment:

Please see the attached Exhibit A for a list of the topics on which the Premier Defendants intend to depose the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy designee.

Place: 124 Halsey St, Newark, NJ 07102	Date and Time:
	03/11/2016 10:00 am

The deposition will be recorded by this method: Stenographical means and by video

*Production:* You, or your representatives, must also bring with you to the deposition the following documents, electronically stored information, or objects, and must permit inspection, copying, testing, or sampling of the material: All documents and communications pertaining to the topics listed in the attached Exhibit A.

The following provisions of Fed. R. Civ. P. 45 are attached – Rule 45(c), relating to the place of compliance; Rule 45(d), relating to your protection as a person subject to a subpoena; and Rule 45(e) and (g), relating to your duty to respond to this subpoena and the potential consequences of not doing so.

Date: 02/11/2016

*CLERK OF COURT*

OR

*Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk*

*Attorney's signature*

The name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number of the attorney representing *(name of party)* Premier Defendants, who issues or requests this subpoena, are: Christopher Wolk; 158 Delaware St., P.O. Box 68, Woodbury, NJ 08096; cwolk@blumberglawoffices.com; (856) 848-7472

**Notice to the person who issues or requests this subpoena**

If this subpoena commands the production of documents, electronically stored information, or tangible things before trial, a notice and a copy of the subpoena must be served on each party in this case before it is served on the person to whom it is directed. Fed. R. Civ. P. 45(a)(4).

AO 88A (Rev. 02/14) Subpoena to Testify at a Deposition in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No. 1:13-md-02419-RWZ

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

*(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 45.)*

I received this subpoena for *(name of individual and title, if any)* \_\_\_\_\_  
on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_.

I served the subpoena by delivering a copy to the named individual as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_; or

I returned the subpoena unexecuted because: \_\_\_\_\_

Unless the subpoena was issued on behalf of the United States, or one of its officers or agents, I have also tendered to the witness the fees for one day's attendance, and the mileage allowed by law, in the amount of

\$ 40.00 .

My fees are \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for travel and \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for services, for a total of \$ 0.00 .

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ *Server's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's address*

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc.:

**Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 45 (c), (d), (e), and (g) (Effective 12/1/13)****(c) Place of Compliance.**

**(1) For a Trial, Hearing, or Deposition.** A subpoena may command a person to attend a trial, hearing, or deposition only as follows:

- (A) within 100 miles of where the person resides, is employed, or regularly transacts business in person; or
- (B) within the state where the person resides, is employed, or regularly transacts business in person, if the person
  - (i) is a party or a party's officer; or
  - (ii) is commanded to attend a trial and would not incur substantial expense.

**(2) For Other Discovery.** A subpoena may command:

- (A) production of documents, electronically stored information, or tangible things at a place within 100 miles of where the person resides, is employed, or regularly transacts business in person; and
- (B) inspection of premises at the premises to be inspected.

**(d) Protecting a Person Subject to a Subpoena; Enforcement.**

**(1) Avoiding Undue Burden or Expense; Sanctions.** A party or attorney responsible for issuing and serving a subpoena must take reasonable steps to avoid imposing undue burden or expense on a person subject to the subpoena. The court for the district where compliance is required must enforce this duty and impose an appropriate sanction—which may include lost earnings and reasonable attorney's fees—on a party or attorney who fails to comply.

**(2) Command to Produce Materials or Permit Inspection.**

**(A) Appearance Not Required.** A person commanded to produce documents, electronically stored information, or tangible things, or to permit the inspection of premises, need not appear in person at the place of production or inspection unless also commanded to appear for a deposition, hearing, or trial.

**(B) Objections.** A person commanded to produce documents or tangible things or to permit inspection may serve on the party or attorney designated in the subpoena a written objection to inspecting, copying, testing, or sampling any or all of the materials or to inspecting the premises—or to producing electronically stored information in the form or forms requested. The objection must be served before the earlier of the time specified for compliance or 14 days after the subpoena is served. If an objection is made, the following rules apply:

(i) At any time, on notice to the commanded person, the serving party may move the court for the district where compliance is required for an order compelling production or inspection.

(ii) These acts may be required only as directed in the order, and the order must protect a person who is neither a party nor a party's officer from significant expense resulting from compliance.

**(3) Quashing or Modifying a Subpoena.**

**(A) When Required.** On timely motion, the court for the district where compliance is required must quash or modify a subpoena that:

- (i) fails to allow a reasonable time to comply;
- (ii) requires a person to comply beyond the geographical limits specified in Rule 45(c);
- (iii) requires disclosure of privileged or other protected matter, if no exception or waiver applies; or
- (iv) subjects a person to undue burden.

**(B) When Permitted.** To protect a person subject to or affected by a subpoena, the court for the district where compliance is required may, on motion, quash or modify the subpoena if it requires:

(i) disclosing a trade secret or other confidential research, development, or commercial information; or

(ii) disclosing an unretained expert's opinion or information that does not describe specific occurrences in dispute and results from the expert's study that was not requested by a party.

**(C) Specifying Conditions as an Alternative.** In the circumstances described in Rule 45(d)(3)(B), the court may, instead of quashing or modifying a subpoena, order appearance or production under specified conditions if the serving party:

- (i) shows a substantial need for the testimony or material that cannot be otherwise met without undue hardship; and
- (ii) ensures that the subpoenaed person will be reasonably compensated.

**(e) Duties in Responding to a Subpoena.**

**(1) Producing Documents or Electronically Stored Information.** These procedures apply to producing documents or electronically stored information:

**(A) Documents.** A person responding to a subpoena to produce documents must produce them as they are kept in the ordinary course of business or must organize and label them to correspond to the categories in the demand.

**(B) Form for Producing Electronically Stored Information Not Specified.** If a subpoena does not specify a form for producing electronically stored information, the person responding must produce it in a form or forms in which it is ordinarily maintained or in a reasonably usable form or forms.

**(C) Electronically Stored Information Produced in Only One Form.** The person responding need not produce the same electronically stored information in more than one form.

**(D) Inaccessible Electronically Stored Information.** The person responding need not provide discovery of electronically stored information from sources that the person identifies as not reasonably accessible because of undue burden or cost. On motion to compel discovery or for a protective order, the person responding must show that the information is not reasonably accessible because of undue burden or cost. If that showing is made, the court may nonetheless order discovery from such sources if the requesting party shows good cause, considering the limitations of Rule 26(b)(2)(C). The court may specify conditions for the discovery.

**(2) Claiming Privilege or Protection.**

**(A) Information Withheld.** A person withholding subpoenaed information under a claim that it is privileged or subject to protection as trial-preparation material must:

- (i) expressly make the claim; and

(ii) describe the nature of the withheld documents, communications, or tangible things in a manner that, without revealing information itself privileged or protected, will enable the parties to assess the claim.

**(B) Information Produced.** If information produced in response to a subpoena is subject to a claim of privilege or of protection as trial-preparation material, the person making the claim may notify any party that received the information of the claim and the basis for it. After being notified, a party must promptly return, sequester, or destroy the specified information and any copies it has; must not use or disclose the information until the claim is resolved; must take reasonable steps to retrieve the information if the party disclosed it before being notified; and may promptly present the information under seal to the court for the district where compliance is required for a determination of the claim. The person who produced the information must preserve the information until the claim is resolved.

**(g) Contempt.**

The court for the district where compliance is required—and also, after a motion is transferred, the issuing court—may hold in contempt a person who, having been served, fails without adequate excuse to obey the subpoena or an order related to it.

ATTACHMENT A

The Premier Defendants seek to depose the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy on the following topics:

1. All New Jersey Board of Pharmacy regulations, policies, procedures, guidelines, or other standards used by the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy in relation to compounding pharmacies, including but not limited to the registration, regulation, and/or monitoring of such entities.
2. All New Jersey Board of Pharmacy regulations, policies, procedures, guidelines, or other standards used by the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy in relation to out-of-state compounding pharmacies, including but not limited to the registration, regulation, and/or monitoring of such entities.
3. Any and all information about the New England Compounding Pharmacy, d/b/a New England Compounding Company, also known as "NECC" which the Board of Pharmacy has, including but not limited to:
  - a. NECC's licensure/registration for New Jersey
  - b. How NECC obtained licensure/registration for New Jersey
  - c. NECC's application for licensure/registration in New Jersey
  - d. Communications with NECC
  - e. Communications with any state or federal agency about NECC
  - f. Communications with New Jersey hospitals, surgery centers, or any other patient healthcare provider about NECC
4. Any and all information possessed by the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy regarding the 2012 fungal meningitis outbreak, including but not limited to:
  - a. Communications with the FDA
  - b. Communications with the NJ Department of Health
  - c. Communications with any other federal or state agency in relation to the outbreak
  - d. Communications with New Jersey hospitals, surgery centers, or any other patient healthcare provider regarding the outbreak

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

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IN RE: NEW ENGLAND )  
COMPOUNDING PHARMACY, INC. )  
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION ) MDL No. 13-2419-RWZ  
)  
This Document Relates To: )  
)  
All Actions )  
)  
)

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MDL Order No. 10  
DEPOSITION PROTOCOL

September 18, 2014

Boal, M.J.

This Deposition Protocol shall govern cases transferred to this Court by the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation pursuant to its order of February 12, 2013, entitled New England Compounding Pharmacy, Inc. Products Liability Litigation, any tag-along actions transferred by the Panel after that date, and any related actions previously assigned to this Court. This Deposition Protocol is limited in scope to the discovery issues addressed herein. Additional discovery issues may need to be addressed in subsequent orders. For purposes of this Deposition Protocol, depositions of “Common Witnesses” and depositions on “Common Issues” shall refer to depositions of fact witnesses with knowledge of issues that pertain to all or a substantial number of cases in the Multidistrict Litigation (“MDL”), as opposed to depositions of witnesses with knowledge on issues pertaining to a single case or a small number of cases.

Should this Deposition Protocol need to be amended or additional provisions included to address issues with case-specific discovery and expert discovery, the parties shall meet and

confer to amend or add to this protocol. If the parties cannot agree, they may submit any remaining disputes to the Court.

## **I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **A. Lead Deposition Counsel**

For purposes of scheduling and coordinating depositions, the MDL Plaintiffs shall designate a Lead Deposition Counsel for all depositions. For each deposition or set of related depositions particular to a Defendant, to the extent possible, the Defendants shall designate Lead Deposition Counsel for purposes of scheduling and coordination of the deposition(s).<sup>1</sup> Plaintiff depositions, third-party depositions, and depositions of employees, representatives, and former employees of the Defendants in this MDL action, and matters related to the conduct of these depositions shall be coordinated, to the extent possible, by Lead Deposition Counsel for Plaintiffs and Lead Deposition Counsel for Defendants, or their designees. The name and contact information for any designee shall be promptly communicated to the other parties. Additionally, counsel for a particular deponent shall be included in coordination of the deposition of that deponent. Counsel should consult in advance with opposing counsel and counsel for proposed deponents in an effort to schedule depositions at mutually convenient times and locations. Nothing in the Deposition Protocol shall be construed to allow counsel for other parties or witnesses to participate in the preparation of a party witness already represented by counsel.

### **B. Deposition Notices**

1. *Notice of Deposition Procedures.* A copy of this Order shall be attached to each notice of deposition and/or any non-party subpoena to testify at a deposition, issued or served in these MDL proceedings.

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<sup>1</sup> Representation for purposes of taking and defending depositions is discussed in Section II(A).

2. *Contents of Notice.* Information shall be provided as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 30. Each deposition notice shall include the name of each deponent and the date, time and place of the deposition. If the notice asks the deponent to produce documents or information, or if the witness may be asked about documents that may contain confidential information, the witness shall be provided with a copy of the Third Amended Protective Order (Docket No. 814, or any additional amendments made by the Court thereto) (the “Protective Order”).

**C. Scheduling**

1. The parties and the Court desire to minimize the expense and inconvenience of this litigation. Accordingly, all depositions of fact and expert witnesses taken in this MDL will be treated as if cross-noticed and taken in each of the individual cases in this MDL and all actions prosecuted by counsel having made an appearance in the MDL. In no event shall witnesses be deposed on multiple occasions on the same subjects in connection with these MDL proceedings without leave of Court and for good cause shown.

2. Plaintiffs and Defendants’ Lead Deposition Counsel shall attempt to establish by mutual agreement a schedule for depositions in this MDL that reflects a sequencing consistent with (a) the availability of documents from among those produced by the parties and third parties; (b) the objective of not subjecting any party to repeated depositions; (c) the need to preserve relevant testimony; and (d) the schedule established by this Court.

3. If a party decides to take a deposition before all of the documents have been produced, they do so at their own risk and will not be allowed to re-depose the witness simply because additional documents were produced after the deposition absent agreement of the parties or permission from the Court for good cause shown. Production of additional documents alone shall not constitute good cause.

**D. Cooperation**

Counsel are expected to cooperate with and be courteous to each other and deponents in both scheduling and conducting depositions.

**E. Attendance**

Unless otherwise ordered under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26 (c), and subject to the restrictions set forth below, depositions may be attended by counsel of record, members and employees of their firms, members of the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee ("PSC"), attorneys specially engaged by a party for purposes of the deposition, the parties or the representative of a party, court reporters, videographers, the deponent, and counsel for the deponent. Without agreement of the parties, no more than ten (10) Plaintiffs' counsel, including members of the PSC, may attend in person any deposition. Nothing in the Joint Deposition Protocol shall be construed to limit the ability of counsel for a defendant to attend a deposition. While the deponent is being examined about any material designated Confidential, persons to whom disclosure is not authorized under the Protective Order shall be excluded from the deposition, except that counsel for any Plaintiff or the deponent shall not be so excluded. Any portion of the deposition transcript containing documents or information subject to the Protective Order entered in this case shall be sealed in accordance with the terms of the Protective Order.

**F. Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(6) Deposition**

A party noticing a deposition of an entity pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(6) shall provide a list of topics for the deposition with reasonable particularity at least thirty (30) days in advance of the deposition in order to allow time for the noticed party to object to any of the topics and for the identification and preparation of person(s) designated to testify on such noticed topics. The noticed party shall submit its objections, if any, within fourteen (14) days of the

receipt of the 30(b)(6) deposition notice. Counsel for the deponent and the PSC may waive the aforementioned 30-day notice period. A party or non-party asked to provide a designee pursuant to a Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(6) deposition notice shall provide notice of the name(s) of the individual(s) to be produced for deposition at least 7 days prior to commencement of the deposition, setting forth the matters upon which each person will testify.

## **II. CONDUCT OF DEPOSITIONS**

### **A. Examination**

Except in depositions that have been cross-noticed in actions pending in state court and without reference to the participation of coordinating counsel from the state court actions, questioning should ordinarily be conducted by no more than two attorneys for all MDL plaintiffs. Lead Deposition Counsel for Plaintiffs may designate typically no more than two attorneys representing personal injury Plaintiffs to participate in the questioning during each deposition. As it relates to a deposition conducted under Rule 30(b)(6) only, Lead Deposition Counsel for Plaintiffs may designate additional counsel for specific subject areas, and Lead Deposition Counsel shall inform counsel for the deponent at least 5 days before such deposition whether additional counsel will cover specific subject areas previously noticed and the specific subject areas additional counsel will cover. Counsel should endeavor to avoid asking the same or repetitive questions.

Counsel for the Unaffiliated Defendants<sup>2</sup> shall endeavor to designate two attorneys (not including, where applicable, the Defendant deponent's counsel) to represent the Unaffiliated Defendants during each deposition and participate in the deposition on behalf of all Unaffiliated

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<sup>2</sup> "Unaffiliated Defendants" refers to Defendants who are not affiliated with New England Compounding Pharmacy, Inc. ("NECC").

Defendants. However, given the disparate interests of all Unaffiliated Defendants, this may not be possible.

Counsel for the Deponent shall “defend” the deposition. An objection by one party reserves the objection for all parties. All objections, except those which would be waived if not made at the deposition, are preserved and need not be made during the course of a deposition.

Each Deponent noticed during Common Issue phase discovery may only be deposed one time and his, her or its deposition applies to all cases pending in this MDL. Additional Plaintiffs and/or their counsel in this MDL may not re-notice or take the deposition of any Common Issue phase witness who has already testified except upon a showing before the Court of good cause and consistent with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

**B. Documents Used in Connection with Deposition.**

1. *Marking of Deposition Exhibits.* All documents previously produced in the course of this litigation and used as exhibits with witnesses from a particular Defendant or non-party witness shall be referred to by the Bates stamp numbers appearing on the documents submitted to the document repositories. Documents that have not been previously produced in the course of this litigation shall be assigned a Bates stamp number from a range of numbers reserved for this purpose. The first time such a document is introduced as an exhibit at a deposition, it shall be marked with the assigned Bates stamp number and shall be produced at the conclusion of the deposition. Any documents marked as Exhibits during depositions shall be marked consecutively, (i.e. “Plaintiff Exhibit 1”), through the discovery phase such that if the first deposition ends with exhibit 11, then the first exhibit to the second deposition will start with exhibit 12. Whenever possible, previously marked exhibits should be used in subsequent depositions, rather than using a new exhibit number for the same exhibit.

2. The party who notices a deposition and/or the selected attorneys who will handle the examination shall strive to bring at least seven (7) copies of all non-introduced exhibits anticipated to be used for the deposition. It is understood that there will be certain instances (such as follow-up or to respond to the deponent's testimony) when the examining attorney(s) may need to introduce an exhibit that he or she did not anticipate and therefore may not have multiple copies available, and failure to bring the relevant copies shall not act as a bar to the introduction of such exhibit.

**C. Limits on Duration and Number of Depositions**

1. Absent permission from the Court or agreement of the parties, depositions shall be limited to one (1) day of seven (7) hours pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(d)(1). Depositions should not typically begin before 9:00 a.m. and should typically conclude by 5:30 p.m. in the local time zone.

2. The PSC and each Defendant shall meet and confer to discuss a limit to the number of Common Witness depositions from that Defendant's employees, agents, former employees, and/or former agents. If the parties cannot agree on a limit, the Defendant may move for a protective order.

**D. Location for Depositions**

Defense counsel will make reasonable efforts to seek agreement of former employees of defendants to appear at designated locations. Absent such agreement, depositions will take place either within the federal district in which the former employee resides or at a location mutually agreeable to the former employee and the parties.

**E. Coordination with State Court Actions, Cross-Noticing and Avoidance of Duplicative Depositions**

1. *Coordination with State Court Actions.* In order to avoid duplicative discovery, minimize the number of times that a witness shall appear for a deposition, and to prevent the unnecessary expenditure of judicial resources and the resources of parties, counsel for Plaintiffs in the MDL shall use their best efforts to coordinate the scheduling of depositions with counsel for state court Plaintiffs. The Court expects that counsel for parties in the MDL proceeding will help ensure that such coordination is achieved where it is practicable.

2. *Cross-Noticing.* Any deposition in this MDL may be cross-noticed by any party in any clinic-related action pending in state court, and any deposition in any clinic-related action pending in state court may be cross-noticed by any party in this MDL. Each deposition notice shall include the information described in section I.B.2., *supra*. If a state court deposition has been cross-noticed in this MDL, then state court Plaintiffs represented by counsel with actions filed in this MDL may not take a subsequent deposition of that witness except for good cause shown as determined by the judge presiding over the proceeding in which the deposition is sought. In that case, any subsequent deposition shall be restricted to such additional inquiry permitted by the judge presiding over the proceeding in which the deposition is sought.

3. Nothing in Section III.F.1-2 shall be construed as an injunctive or equitable order affecting state court proceedings. Rather this provision is intended to reflect this Court's desire for voluntary state-federal coordination among the litigants and their counsel.

4. Unless it is jointly noticed by Plaintiffs in both the class action and personal injury matters, the noticing of a deposition by Plaintiffs' counsel for personal injury matters shall not count against the limitation on numbers of deposition prescribed under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure for plaintiffs in any consolidated class action, and vice versa.

**F. Early Depositions**

If the parties become aware of any person who possess relevant information but, who, by reason of age, ill health, or termination of employment with defendants may become unavailable for deposition, the deposition may be taken as soon as possible, using the procedures outlined in Fed. R. Civ. P. 27.

**G. Telephonic Depositions and Participation**

The parties shall comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(4) regarding remote depositions. Non-examining counsel may attend depositions telephonically but are not permitted to participate absent extenuating circumstances, such as weather delay or physical restriction on travel or by agreement of counsel for the deponent.

**H. Disputes During Depositions**

If a dispute arises during a deposition that cannot be resolved by agreement, the deposition shall continue to be taken as to matters not in dispute. The parties shall present the dispute to the Court by motion at the earliest practicable time. Nothing in this Order shall deny counsel the right to suspend a deposition pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(d)(3).

**I. Video Depositions**

After so indicating in its notice of a deposition, a party may, at its expense, record a deposition by videotape or digitally-recorded video pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(3) subject to the following rules:

1. *Video Operator.* The operator(s) of the video recording equipment shall be subject to the provisions of Fed. R. Civ. P. 28(c) and/or any protective order issued in the case pertaining to the deposition. At the commencement of the deposition, the operator(s) shall swear or affirm to record the proceedings fairly and accurately.

2. *Attendance.* Each witness, attorney and other person attending the deposition shall be identified on the record at the commencement of the deposition.

3. *Interruptions.* No attorney or party shall direct instructions to the video operator as to the method of operating the equipment. The video camera operation will be suspended during the deposition only upon agreement of counsel.

#### **J. Correcting and Signing Deposition Transcripts**

Unless waived by the deponent, the transcript of a deposition shall be submitted to the deponent within thirty (30) days after the end of the deposition for correction and signature.

Upon receipt of the transcript, the deponent thereafter shall have thirty (30) days to make any corrections to the transcript, sign it, and return the transcript to the deposing party. If represented by counsel, a deponent need not sign any corrected transcript before a notary. If no corrections are made during this time, the transcript will be presumed accurate.

#### **III. USE OF DEPOSITIONS**

Depositions conducted in this MDL may be used in related cases in any state court to the extent permitted by that state's laws and rules. Depositions may be used by or against any party as permitted by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Federal Rules of Evidence.

#### **IV. FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE APPLICABLE**

Unless specifically modified herein, nothing in this Deposition Protocol shall be construed to abrogate the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, including the right of any party or non-party to object to or seek a protective order to prevent the deposition of any witness.

**So Ordered.**

/s/ Jennifer C. Boal  
JENNIFER C. BOAL  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE